



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH


(DR. D. S. PARK).

For the Year ending 31st December,
1911.

HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING :

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

TO THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
HOUGHTON-LE-SPRING.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I have again the honour to submit for your consideration and acceptance my Annual Report dealing with the health and sanitary conditions of the district for the year 1911.

Appended to my report are the various tables of the Local Government Board, numbered respectively, I., II., III., and IV.

It will be observed that Table V. has been done away with, and that there has been a rearrangement of the other tables. In order that the text of my report may be the more easily and readily understood, the following particulars will prove of great assistance.

Table I. deals with the vital statistics of the whole district during 1911 and previous years.

Table II. gives the cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1911.

Table III. gives the causes of and ages at death during the year 1911.

Table IV. gives Infant Mortality, 1911, net deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 year of age.

By referring to Table I. we shall find that 177 deaths have been registered during the year in the district itself—but in estimating the mortality it is necessary to carry out the instructions of the Local Government Board. Of the transferable deaths 11 occurred to non-residents and 10 to residents not registered in the district, so that after making the necessary corrections the total number of deaths upon which the mortality must be based becomes reduced to 176.

Death-rate.—By taking the census population at the middle of the year as required by the Local Government Board at 9,753, this is equivalent to a death-rate of 18·03 per 1,000 per annum and an infant mortality of 44·3 per cent.

The infant mortality rate (per 1,000 registered births), 149·3.

Births.—The births for the year number 328—166 males and 162 females—representing a birth-rate of 33·6 and a gain to the population of 152.

The following table gives the births—male and female—including birth-rate for the past four years:—

Year.	Births.	Males.	Females.	Rate	Increase.
1908	366	192	174	37·6	175
1909	383	213	170	39·8	256
1910	299	147	152	29·1	116
1911	328	166	162	33·6	152

The subjoined table gives the death-rate per 1,000 from the principal Zymotic diseases during the past three years.

No.	Diseases.	1909.	1910.	1911.
1	Small-Pox	0·	0·	0·
2	Scarlet Fever	0·	0·	·1
3	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	·3	·09	0
4	Typhoid Fever and Continued Fever	·2	·09	·4
5	Measles	·5	·0	·4
6	Whooping Cough	·2	·02	0
7	Diarrhoea, Dysentery and Enteritis	·1	·02	2·05
8	Phthisis	1·1	·8	1·02
9	Acute Diseases of the Lungs ...	2·1	3·9	2·3
10	Other Tubercular Diseases	·8	·4	·2

New Cases of Sickness.—The Infectious Disease Notification Act was adopted by your Council on February 1st, 1890.

In order to derive the full benefits of the above act I make it my invariable practice to visit and inspect the premises and the out-offices occupied by the patients with as little delay as possible after receiving the Notification Forms, and to give such instructions as to isolation and disinfection as the nature and circumstances of illness may require.

We are a mining population with a relatively high birth-rate and as our houses are chiefly of the cottage property class, home isolation, as a rule, is a physical impossibility.

Indeed, in many cases the resources of the householder are often seriously taxed in order to provide sleeping accommodation for the family with a proper regard for the separation of the sexes. In the interests of the community at large, therefore, it is most desirable that all cases should be treated in the Isolation Hospital, and that no unnecessary delay should take place in their removal thereto.

When cases are allowed to remain at home, even for a few days after the illness is recognised, the danger of infection spreading to other members of the family is both real and great.

The sooner the patients are removed the sooner will it be possible to have the premises and out-offices and all contaminated articles cleansed and disinfected, and this is a matter of the first importance. As I have frequently remarked, no subsequent cases have occurred at the patients' homes since the erection of the hospital, when this precaution has been observed. On the other hand, when cases are retained at home, subsequent cases are the rule and not the exception.

Disinfectants.—These are supplied free of charge and your Inspector himself frequently superintends their use.

Portable Disinfecting Apparatus.—The apparatus is taken to the patients' homes free of charge and is used on all occasions when the consent of the householder is obtained. In all cases removed to the hospital, we insist on this form of disinfection, as the bed and bedding cannot possibly be disinfected by the ordinary home methods.

I think the best arrangement, gentlemen, would be to have the portable disinfecting apparatus stationed at the hospital, and have the bed and bedding and other contaminated articles of the patients taken there for disinfection. A light vehicle might be obtained for the purpose. This arrangement would do much to allay the susceptibilities of those who foolishly imagine that the apparatus is only necessary for persons of dirty and untidy habits.

Infectious Sickness.—Sixty-seven cases in all have been notified during the year, viz. :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	7
Erysipelas	... ..	9
Scarlet Fever	... ..	21
Typhoid Fever	... ..	14
Chicken Pox	... ..	13
Phthisis Pulmonary	.. ...	3
		<hr/>
		67
		<hr/>

As compared with 85 for the previous year, viz. :—

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup	...	20
Erysipelas	... ..	6
Scarlet Fever	... ..	54
Typhoid Fever	... ..	5
		<hr/>
		85
		<hr/>

Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.—The following is a list of the cases notified during the year, with particulars as to the insanitary conditions found on my rounds of inspection :—

Date. 1911.	Sex.	Age. Years.	
January 2	Female	13	Stanley Street, was on a visit to Quebec, near Waterhouses, for a fortnight, and developed the disease the morning after her return home.
January 8	Male ...	14	Quarry Row, went to Trimdon for a holiday and returned home with a sore throat and influenza. Removed to hospital.
March 25	Female	2½	Gilpin Street.
April 16	Male ...	2	The Green, Houghton-le-Spring.
April 27	Male ...	7	The Green, Houghton-le-Spring. Brother of the above.
December 22	Male ..	6	Stanley Street.
December 31	Male ...	5	Sunderland Street.

I cannot do better, gentlemen, than repeat here what I said in my last year's report with respect to Diphtheria when I went carefully into the subject.

I might, of course, alter the phraseology, but that would give no clearer conception of the insanitary conditions usually found associated with the disease or of the sanitary precautions which we as a Health Authority should take in order to guard against its development and spread.

The bacillus of diphtheria, gentlemen, is very hard to kill, and may live outside the human body for months in a more or less dormant condition, and then spring into active life again, when it gets into a throat rendered less resistant by disease, such as Tonsilitis, Measles, Scarlet Fever, etc. Milk is one of the chief carriers of the disease, but, as experiments have shown, the bacillus dies in water after a few days. The water supply is not looked upon as one of the media through which it usually enters the body.

The aggregation of children at school, too, plays an important part in the spread of the disease. In some schools the children put their mouths to a common tap when they want a drink and borrow from each other pens and pencils, and not infrequently put them to their mouths. Sharing chewing gum with each other that has been in the mouth, and other acts of a like kind which children are apt to commit, are all contributory causes. The drilling of children in the open playground in the raw

winter months without any headgear on is liable to cause sore throat and thus predispose, as I have said, to the disease. As in the case of Typhoid Fever, certain families are more susceptible than others to Diphtheria. The month of November—when the weather is usually cold and raw, is the time of the year when epidemics reach their maximum. It is a filth disease, and as a Health Authority it is most important for us to know the insanitary conditions usually associated with the disease. The most important of which are:—water-logged condition of the soil and dampness generally, want of proper drainage, improper or defective spouting, improper or defective footpaths and back-streets and yards, defective channelling, defective scavenging and filthy conditions generally. Suspected cats should be destroyed as they often suffer from the disease in a chronic form—the chief symptoms of which are a chronic catarrh and a wasting of the body generally.

The only way to lessen the risks and safeguard the district from such outbreaks is to take active measures to put down all insanitary conditions, especially those enumerated above, and this can only be done by a regular and systematic inspection of the district and by rigidly keeping the scavenging contractors up to the conditions of their contracts.

It is one of the peculiarities of Diphtheria that the most careful examination often fails to throw light on the source of the infection. In former times towns and crowded centres of population were the favourite haunts of the disease, but in these days it is as prevalent in rural districts as in crowded cities.

Antitoxin is supplied by your Council to poor persons free of charge through your Medical Officer of Health on application of the medical attendant. Such persons are usually the greatest sufferers from the disease and as an early use of the remedy is unquestionably of the greatest value our death-rate from the disease should appreciably decline.

Scarlet Fever has been nothing like so prevalent as it was during the previous year, nor did it linger so persistently in the district throughout the year as a perusal of the list of cases will show.

The mildness of the type is often a cause of the spread of the disease, as frequently the eruption is so faint and ill-defined, and the child may apparently be in its usual health, that the disease is not even suspected until the peeling process has set in, by which time, of course, the infection has been carried to others.

This, combined with the indiscriminate visiting at infected houses, is the chief cause of the spread of the disease in this district.

Table of Scarlet Fever cases notified during the year:—

Date. 1911.	Sex.	Age. Years.	
January 9	Female	9	Robinson Street.
„ 11	Male	11	Edwin Street.
„ 13	Female	8½	Halliwell Street.
„ 21	Male ...	11	Outram Street.
March 23	Female	8	Stanley Street.
April 10	„	11	Lambton Street.
„ 26	Male ...	2	Laburnum House Yard.
May 3	„	3	Outram Street
September 28	„	2	Union Street.
„ 30	Female	2	Bink's Yard.
October 7	„	4	Low Hill Side.
„ 10	„	7	Nesham Place.
„ 12	„	8	Long Row, Colliery Row.
„ 26	Male ...	6	Bink's Yard.
„ 26	Female	3	Bink's Yard.
„ 29	Male ...	5	Gilpin Street.
November 4	Female	3	Robinson Street
„ 7	„	30	Rose Street.
December 12	Male ...	2½	Wheler Street.
„ 21	Female	3½	Sunderland Street.
„ 27	„	7	Quarry Row.

Typhoid Fever.—In my report for September, gentlemen, I pointed out that we were threatened with an outbreak of Typhoid Fever and gave you particulars as to the date of notification of the cases, the insanitary conditions found on my rounds of inspection and the precautions we were taking to arrest the spread of the disease.

I also pointed out that it was a seasonal disease and that this was the time of year when such outbreaks usually occur. All Sanitary Authorities have been watching with much apprehension the effect such a phenomenal summer was likely to have upon the public health, especially with reference to Typhoid Fever. The intense heat during the summer months, combined with the enormous and persistent quantities of house flies, made it almost impossible to keep food stuffs, especially the food of infants and young children, in anything like a wholesome condition. The out-offices, too, were most offensive, causing a feeling of nausea among some of the occupiers. As I have pointed out in previous reports, such outbreaks usually occur suddenly and without any warning. Months and months may elapse without a single case being notified, when all at once several cases are notified at one and the same time. Subsequent cases, as a rule, occur close to cases of a prior date.

These sudden outbreaks, occurring as they usually do in different parts of the town at one and the same time, would point to some common cause operating over an extensive area.

Water and milk contamination may be excluded altogether as a possible cause, as outbreaks due to those causes have nothing in common with the outbreaks I am at present referring to. Besides, the patients were getting their milk from different dairies.

As I have said, Typhoid Fever is a seasonal disease, so that the typhoid bacillus is more active at certain times of the year and under certain conditions than at other times.

The present summer, for example, has been peculiarly favourable for the development and propagation of the bacilli, and where the disease has previously existed the out-offices must contain them in large numbers. The close proximity of the out-offices to the pantries and backdoors renders them very offensive during the summer months.

I am satisfied that these repeated outbreaks are due to the specific fouling of the out-offices, and as I have frequently remarked, gentlemen, until we adopt the water-carriage system for the disposal of the night soil, especially in congested districts and where the yard space is small and cramped, and where the night soil has to be wheeled through narrow passages and deposited on the street before it can be carted away, we shall always be subject to those sudden outbreaks of the disease.

In all cases where the patients are not removed to the hospital, pails are provided for the excretions of the patient and with good results, but as you know, gentlemen, before the cases are notified, everything, as a rule, is put into the ashpit or ash-closet without any attempt at disinfection, with the result that the disease is almost certain to break out afresh under favourable conditions.

The following is a list of the cases, with the date of notification, the age and sex of the patient, and the conditions found on my rounds of inspection.

The 1st case was notified on January 4th, and was that of a young man, aged 19, living at Lambton Street, Newtown. The yard gully was choked up and was very offensive and causing dampness in the kitchen and bedroom walls. Removed to hospital.

The 2nd case was notified on March 6th, and was that of a boy, aged 7 years, living in Bernard Street. Removed to hospital.

The 3rd case was notified on April 11th, and was that of a young man, aged 17 years, living at Prospect Row. This lad was notified fourteen months ago as suffering from the same disease.

The 4th case was notified on August 13th, and was that of a married woman, aged 37 years, living in the Market Place. The privy and ashpit were very offensive and the yard small and cramped. Removed to hospital.

The 5th and 6th cases were two sisters, aged respectively 21 and 13 years, living at South View, Colliery Row, and were

notified on August 30th. I understand that a brother of the above, living in the same house, died from Rheumatic Fever a few weeks before their illness.

The 7th case was also notified on August 30th, and was that of a young girl, aged 15 years, living at North View, Colliery Row, only a few doors from the above cases. The girl had been to Sunderland on a visit for 14 days and took ill the day after her return home.

The 8th case, a boy 16 years of age, living at Quarry Row. Removed to hospital. Notified September 5th.

The 9th case was notified on September 7th, and was that of a married woman, aged 49 years, living at North View, Colliery Row, only a few doors from cases 5, 6, 7.

The 10th case was notified on September 13th and was that of a woman living at Overman's Row, Chilton Moor.

The 11th and 12th cases were notified on September 17th, and were that of father and daughter, aged respectively 38 and 14 years, living in Rose Street. I understand another child of the family had been suffering from diarrhœa and general debility a short time previous to the illness of the above. The bedroom was small and badly ventilated. The father succumbed to the disease, and as the bed and mattress were saturated with the discharges of the patients they had to be destroyed and new ones provided.

The 13th case was notified on September 19th and was that of a young man, aged 27 years, living at the Folds, Chilton Moor. This person had been a frequent visitor at the house of cases 5 and 6, and in all human likelihood the infection was thus contracted. Removed to hospital.

The 14th case was notified on October 5th and was that of a boy, aged 8 years, living in the Workhouse. Nothing to show how the infection was contracted. Removed to hospital.

Not only in the Typhoid cases, but in all the infectious cases notified, the premises and out-offices are carefully inspected by me at the earliest possible moment—usually the same day as that on which the notification is received. In addition to providing pails for the typhoid cases not removed to hospital, the out-offices are always cleaned out and disinfected, and the yard drains are flushed and disinfected and disinfectants are supplied free of charge. The bed and bedding of the cases removed to the hospital are disinfected in the disinfecting apparatus, unless they are found to be so saturated with the discharges of the patients as to render disinfection impossible, when they are destroyed and replaced by your Council, in the interest of the public health.

It is interesting to note that the epidemic in the Rural District started on September 4th—four days later than in the Urban District. Although the epidemic in the Rural District continued well into December, that in the Urban District may be said to have ceased on September 19th. The cause of the pro-

longed prevalence in the Rural District was due, however, to exceptional causes which did not obtain in the Urban District and which need not be considered here.

Cholera and Small Pox.—We have enjoyed a complete immunity from these diseases for a long number of years.

Erysipelas.—The cases of Erysipelas were of the ordinary type, and were supposed to be due to the cold east winds. No sanitary defects were found on my rounds of inspection.

Chicken Pox.—Owing to a threatened outbreak of Small Pox in the Rural District in the month of February, I advised your Council to make Chicken Pox a notifiable disease until the end of the year, as an extra precaution against the introduction of Small Pox into the district. This was done in the month of March. As both districts are now free from Small Pox, the notification of Chicken Pox is now quite unnecessary. The cases notified were of the ordinary type and in no instance was the diagnosis ever in question.

Measles.—Measles was more or less prevalent from April to September, but never to such an extent as to necessitate the closing of any of the schools.

Whooping Cough.—Only a few cases of Whooping Cough came to my knowledge during the year.

Mumps.—Mumps was nothing like so prevalent as last year, when the schools had to be cleansed and disinfected during the summer holidays.

Summer Diarrhœa, Enteritis, etc., were very prevalent during the summer months, and added greatly to the infant mortality.

In the month of August, of the 27 deaths registered, 13 were due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis. The death-rate was 31·1 and the infant mortality 70·3 per cent.

During the quarter ending September, out of the 54 deaths, 16 were due to Diarrhœa and Enteritis, representing a death-rate of 21·4 and an infant mortality of 59·2 per cent.

The continued drought and the intense heat during the summer, combined with the enormous and persistent swarms of houseflies, made it impossible to keep food stuffs in anything like a wholesome condition. I pointed out that I had been making enquiries and found that here, as elsewhere, large quantities of condensed skim milk are sold and that it is extensively used for infants and young children. On the tin of one of the brands are printed the words, "Condensed milk, machine skimmed, with addition of refined sugar for use with tea, coffee, cocoa, and for cooking purposes." From such a description, some persons might imagine that the skimming and sweetening process had

added to the value of the milk. Although nothing is said about infants and young children, there is no question that it is largely used in this connection.

On the tin of another brand it is stated that "It is not recommended as sole food for infants." It is impossible to ignore the fact that such milk is totally unsuited as food for infants and young children, and some steps should be taken to regulate the sale of such so-called milk. At my recommendation, your Council very properly had bills posted over the town advising parents and others to abstain from feeding their children on such stuff.

If poor milk is given to an infant, the child keeps sucking until its little stomach becomes distended in its eagerness to obtain sufficient nourishment to appease its hunger, with the result that vomiting and purging are induced.

A child thus fed is always hungry and fretful and is never satisfied, and of course cannot possibly thrive.

By a resolution of your Council, it was decided that your Clerk should write to the Local Government Board and Board of Trade with a view of inducing them to take action to regulate the sale of such so-called milk.

Pneumonia and other Chest Affections.—I can only repeat, gentlemen, what I have said before when commenting upon our somewhat high mortality from chest affections, that the north-east winds in winter and early spring are very trying to the young and old and to persons of debilitated constitution generally.

It is no uncommon thing to see mothers with babies in their arms out of doors late at night and irrespective altogether of the condition of the weather.

Young children, too, are allowed to play in the streets and back-yards, barefooted often and otherwise scantily and improperly clothed, when they should be indoors, if not asleep in bed.

In mining districts such as ours, the night-shift men are exposed to those sudden atmospheric changes which at night and in the early morning are very trying to persons who are more or less exhausted by the arduous nature of their employment and therefore less able to resist disease.

Our houses, as a rule, are dry and well built and are provided with through ventilation and a proper system of drainage.

Tuberculosis.—In the months of July and August two cases were notified by me in accordance with the memorandum of the Local Government Board, dated 4th March, 1909. Both were girls, aged respectively 15 and 16 years, and living, the one at Long Row, Colliery Row, and the other at D'Arcy Street, Houghton-le-Spring. Both were sent to the Wolsingham Sanatorium, one at the expense of your Council on sanitary grounds, the other at the expense of the Guardians as a parish case.

On the advice of the Medical Superintendent, both were granted a further period of six weeks' treatment in order to complete the cure. They have since returned home, apparently in good health. After their removal to the Sanatorium, the houses were thoroughly disinfected.

Compulsory Notification of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—First, by Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908. Provision was made for the compulsory notification of cases occurring among the inmates of Poor Law institutions or among persons under the care of District Medical Officers.

Second, by Public Health (Tuberculosis in Hospitals) Regulations, 1911. Notification extended to cases occurring among indoor patients at hospitals or similar institutions supported otherwise than by rates and taxes.

Third, by Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1911. Notification made general from 1st January, 1912, and Local Authorities are empowered to "supply such medical assistance, facilities, and articles as may be necessary for detecting the disease, for removing conditions favourable to infection. A register is to be kept by the Medical Officer, which register is to be considered a confidential record. Forms are to be provided free for the use of practitioners and a fee of 2s. 6d. to be paid for each notification."

Now that Pulmonary Tuberculosis is made compulsory, proper provision must be made for Sanatorium treatment. When the question of providing such treatment was last before your Council it was decided to deal with such cases as they arose, until sufficient data were obtained in order to enable you to arrive at some approximate estimate of the number of cases your Council might be called upon to provide for.

This is a big question, gentlemen, and, in my humble judgment, if we are to derive anything like the good results which the Act is intended to confer upon the nation at large by stamping out the disease, proper and adequate Sanatoriums must be provided all over the country at the expense of the State.

Influenza.—Influenza has prevailed in the district more or less during the year, chiefly in the winter and early spring, however.

Icy cold winds invariably determine an outbreak of the disease. If Typhoid Fever be present at the same time, a difficulty is often experienced in the early stages of the disease in diagnosing the one from the other.

Ringworm.—Very few cases of Ringworm have come to my knowledge during the year, and, so far as I know, very few children have been excluded from school on account of the disease.

Hospital Accommodation.—We have a co-joint Small Pox Hospital for the use of the whole Union. Fortunately, so far as your district is concerned, we have enjoyed a complete immunity from the disease for a long number of years.

Our Isolation Hospital is built of stone and consists of four wards, in addition to the administration block, with accommodation for eleven beds. It has recently been done up and a new Mortuary has been added to the building. Dr. Smedley, on his visit, suggested that the ash-closets should be replaced by water closets and that the disinfecting apparatus should be kept at the hospital instead of taken to the patient's home for the disinfection of the bed and bedding, etc. This is a good suggestion and I have already referred to it when speaking of the disinfecting apparatus.

Milk.—Samples are taken from time to time by the representatives of the County Council, and so far as I know, with satisfactory results. A portion of our supply is derived from outside the district. Both as regards quantity and quality, everything may be considered satisfactory.

The question of granting certificates to dairy farmers whose cows had successfully undergone the tuberculin test for Tuberculosis was not entertained by your Council, as the test was considered to be unreliable and likely to have a harassing effect upon the farmers.

Meat.—Our meat is of good quality and is generally home fed. The butchers afford every facility to your Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer when on their rounds of inspection.

In the month of July, complaint was made that a pork butcher was slaughtering on his premises, notwithstanding the fact that your Council declined to grant a license for that purpose. The premises were visited by your Sanitary Inspector and Medical Officer and the practice has not been repeated.

Slaughtering.—I regret to say slaughtering is still done in some of the shops. This is very objectionable and has a demoralizing effect, and should not be allowed. The offal is at once removed to a suitable place some distance away and the premises are clean and well kept. Ten licenses in all have been granted. The floors of some of the slaughter-houses are defective and require relaying. In one case the slaughter-house is used for the preparation for sale of sausages, polonies, pies, etc.

On Wednesday, May 10th, along with your Inspector, Mr. Tweddle, I visited, by request, the premises of a butcher in Houghton-le-Spring for the purpose of examining the carcass of a beast that had been slaughtered in the usual way, as the owner and a Committee of the Butchers' Protection Association were of opinion that the animal had suffered from some disease, rendering the meat of doubtful quality. I found unmistakable

evidence of Miliary Tuberculosis of both lungs, including the pleura and peritoneum, with some of the lymphatic glands similarly affected. I had no hesitation in condemning the flesh as unfit for human consumption and had the whole carcase burned in the lime kiln by your Inspector.

The owner and the members of the Butchers' Protection Association present at my examination behaved in an honourable and upright manner and gave me every assistance possible. You have no other inspector in this connection than your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector.

Dairies and Cowsheds—These are regularly and systematically inspected by your Inspector, also by your Medical Officer when occasion requires. The premises appear to be clean and well kept, and the lighting and ventilation and air space, except in one instance, are all in accordance with your bye-laws. In this case the cubic air space per cow is only 376 cubic feet. Four cows are kept by this person. The regulations provide for 800 cubic feet per cow. He should be called upon to reduce the number of his cows or at once to provide better byre accommodation.

The byres are limewashed four times a year and at regular intervals, and all are registered under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Shops Act, 1884. The cows are of fair average class and no infectious or other sickness has been reported during the year. You have no other Inspector in this connection than your Inspector and Medical Officer.

Common Lodging Houses.—The two houses—one at Grey Horse Lane and the other at High Hill Side—registered for 14 and 20 lodgers respectively, are both of a poor class and require doing up. They should be remeasured and re-constructed in order to make proper provision for male and female lodgers. Otherwise they should be registered for male lodgers only. The windows, too, should be enlarged to admit of more daylight and ventilation, and more and better closet accommodation should be provided.

Dr. Smedley recommends that the yard of the Lambton Boarding Lodging House should be imperviously paved and that a wash-house should be provided for the use of the lodgers. In addition to the ordinary inspections made by your Inspector, surprise visits are made from time to time with, I understand, satisfactory results.

Children Excluded from School.—As I pointed out in my last yearly report, a Memorandum on Communicable Diseases drawn up by Dr. Hill, County Medical Officer of Health, and forwarded to the Head Teachers and School Attendance Officers in the County Education Area, should be of great assistance to the

teachers and others, as it contains a clear and concise description of the Non-Notifiable Diseases and Suspected Ailments with which it deals.

The Destruction of Rats.—The Memorandum of the Local Government Board dealing with the means to be taken for the destruction and extermination of rats and other rodents was fully commented upon by me in my last year's annual report.

The Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, and Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, have been put into force by your Council.

A systematic inspection of the town was commenced in the month of June.

It was arranged to start with the Newtown and to work in a regular and systematic manner through the district, taking at the same time odd houses here and there as circumstances or urgency might require.

Our mode of procedure is for your Inspector and myself to make an inspection of so many houses each month, and report to your Council at its next meeting, with a recommendation that the houses in question should be examined by your Council in order to determine what action should be taken to remedy the defects found on our rounds of inspection.

After the inspection by your Council the necessary notices are served upon the owners requesting them to put their houses into a proper sanitary condition.

Altogether 55 houses have been examined under the Act, of which 10 have been put in a proper state of repair; 15 are being attended to, and the remainder are still under notice.

Spouting.—The spouting of the district is much in the same condition. Owners would be well advised to pay more attention to the question. The spouts should be overhauled and cleaned out at stated intervals, as improper or defective spouting does more harm to property than no spouting at all, and is often the cause of dampness in houses and the ailments which usually result therefrom. Your Inspector has the spouting of the district under careful supervision and has already served several notices upon the owners of houses thus defective with satisfactory results. All the downcomers should be made to discharge into a proper channel in place of on to the footpath, which is too often the case.

Notification of Births Act.—No further action has been taken by your Council with respect to the above Act.

Dr. Smedley, in his report on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of your district, advises the adoption of the Act and the appointment of a Health Visitor.

The adoption of both recommendations would have a good effect in reducing our heavy infant mortality. In places where they are in operation there has been a most substantial decrease in the infant mortality.

The Registrar of Births still continues to give to the persons registering the births a copy of the printed circular giving full instructions as to the proper feeding, clothing and general management of infants and young children, and if carefully read and acted upon, it cannot fail to be of great assistance to the young and inexperienced mothers who are willing and anxious to do the best they can for their helpless infants, but who, from lack of knowledge, lamentably fail in their maternal duties.

School Inspection.—Medical Inspectors have been appointed for the systematic inspection of all school children in the district.

Lambton and Hetton Collieries, Ltd.—The colliery owners as you know, gentlemen, are the great employers of labour and the most extensive owners of cottage property in the district. They keep a large permanent staff of workmen for the purpose of keeping their property in order. They are still busily engaged in converting the old privy ashpits into modern ash-closets and are providing water-closets for the houses in confined yards, and in places where the night soil has to be wheeled through narrow passages and deposited in the street before it can be carted away by the contractor. Notably in Bink's Yard and the Market Place.

Mr. Palliser, the colliery representative, has again kindly furnished me with a list of the improvements effected by the Company during the past year, but the space at my disposal is too limited to do more than to acknowledge the importance of the work done and the ever ready and willing desire on the part of the agents to comply with the recommendations and suggestions of your Officers.

Sewage Farm.—Owing to subsidence of the land caused by colliery workings it has been found almost impossible to keep the beds in anything like proper working order. No sooner are the tanks and partition walls repaired than they break out again, so that it is impossible to empty one without emptying them all.

Nothing more can be done at present to improve matters. We can only strive to keep the beds working to the best of our ability under the circumstances until such time as the land settles for good, when the whole of the works will require to be overhauled and done up afresh.

Your able and courteous Chairman, gentlemen, notwithstanding his age, takes quite as keen an interest in the purification of our sewage and the working of the farm as ever, and I feel sure the Council gratefully appreciate his valuable services.

Ash-pits and Privies.—According to the returns of the Inspector, the number of ash-pits, privies, etc., in the district is as follows:—Water-closets, 314; ash-closets, 337; ash-pit privies, 1,161; ash-pits alone, 137; ash-boxes and bins, 138.

It will be observed that during the year, 41 water-closets and 31 ash-closets have been added and that the number of ash-pit privies has been reduced by 44. This is due to the fact that the Colliery Company have converted a large number of old ash-pit privies into the more up-to-date ash-closets and water-closets.

Your Council have also called upon the owners of premises where the house refuse was wheeled through the living rooms and passages directly connected with living rooms, to provide water-closets and portable ash-bins. Twenty-four notices have been served, 17 of which have already been complied with. This was a right and proper thing to do and will make the surrounding conditions pleasanter alike for the occupiers and neighbours.

House Scavenging.—The three years' contracts for the scavenging and removal of house refuse expired at the end of October last. One portion of the district is now being scavenged by the Council by direct labour as an experiment, and a place of deposit has been provided near the White House Farm.

The remaining portion of the district has been let to contractors as usual for another year.

Your Council have separated the offices of Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector, so that a closer supervision over the contractors is now possible. This supervision and watchfulness on the part of your active and energetic Inspector has done much to mitigate the complaints as to neglected or imperfect scavenging.

I am not aware of any case where it has been deemed necessary to withhold payment from the contractor on account of imperfect scavenging.

Tips.—All tips within the prescribed distance of the nearest dwellings should be prohibited, and proceedings should be taken against all contractors found using such tips after having been previously cautioned.

In order to avoid surface pollution, which is often a source of great danger to the public health, the condition of contract, compelling the contractors to scoop the night soil direct into the cart, in place of first depositing it on the yard or street, should be strictly enforced in all cases where the conditions are favourable.

Houghton Burn.—The burn continues to silt up between Vine Place and Station Road. As it is a favourite playground for the school children, it is highly desirable that a culvert should be formed, as in the summer months it is most offensive.

Highways.—A portion of front Outram Street and the portion of East Back Sunderland Street from Ironside Street to Balfour Street have been made up under the Private Street Works Act, 1892. The footpath in Newbottle Street and Quarry Row has been relaid with concrete flags by your Council. A footpath of asphalt has been formed by the Colliery Company in Quarry Row North.

The top end of Henry Street, Back Elizabeth Street, Back Stanley Street, upper part of Back George Street, South Back D'Arcy Street, portion of Back Bowlby Street, Wheler Street, Gilpin Street, and Bernard Street, all referred to by me in my last year's report; also Back Glebe Terrace and the back street between North and South View, Colliery Row, require to be done up. These streets, gentlemen, require your earliest attention, as they are all in a very unsatisfactory condition, and in wet weather they are almost impassable.

The portion of Station Road adjoining the new Council Schools has been made up by the County Council.

Your Council have provisionally accepted tenders and are now considering the provisional apportionments for the making up of North Back Edwin Street and part of East Back Sunderland Street connected therewith, and also North Elizabeth Street.

Your Surveyor is preparing the necessary plans, specifications and estimate, etc., for the formation of Balfour Street and Stanley Street.

The making up of the approach road to the Villa Estate (Wallace Street) has been deferred pending an agreement with the adjoining owners as to the method of formation and costs.

It is proposed to connect Sunderland Street and Newbottle Street with a carriageway. Alternative schemes have been considered, but no definite decision has been arrived at. The scheme embracing an entrance at Le Spring house in Sunderland Street to Union Street is apparently most favoured.

A footbridge has been erected at the west end of Wheler Street, over the Houghton Burn, communicating with the Wheler Estate and the footpath leading from Vine Place towards the Sewage Farm.

The Newcastle Road has been greatly affected by subsidence. Application has been made to the Roads Board for a contribution towards the cost of widening and improving the portion of this road extending from the footpath from the Villa Estate to the County Bridge near Moors Farm.

It has also been decided to apply to the Roads Board for a contribution towards the cost of improving the dangerous corner at the Houghton end of the Newcastle Road. It was at this corner where a fatal accident occurred some months ago. As I have said this is a dangerous corner, and steps should be taken

at once to safeguard the lives of the travelling public, otherwise accidents of a serious character are sure to occur.

The Council contemplated applying for an order limiting the speed of motor traffic through the town, but ultimately agreed to the suggestion offered by the North-Eastern Automobile Association to erect suitable warning boards instead.

Tramways.—The Tramway Company are proposing to put down additional passing places at Colliery Row and Quarry Row.

It is satisfactory to observe that no serious accidents have occurred on any part of the tramway system during the year.

Additional electric cables are still being laid in the district. One has recently been laid in Edwin Street, extending from Sunderland Street to the rear of the Workhouse buildings.

It is also proposed to lay a cable through the district from the Quarry Row boundary along Newbottle Street to the Durham Road boundary.

Large quantities of material have been laid down on the highways by the Council during the year. George Street has been repaired with ironstone slag bound with tar, and tar macadam has been laid in Edwin Street and at Front Street, Colliery Row.

The new road extending from Edwin Street to the Market Place has been much improved and made up with steel slag.

The Gillas Lane has been repaired with ironstone slag.

Public Convenience.—A women's convenience is in course of erection in Newbottle Street, and it is expected that it will be completed and opened shortly. This will supply a long-felt want in the district and will be much appreciated.

Development of District.—There has again been a considerable falling off of building operations during the year. The slackness of the building trade is difficult to understand, the more so as all round the outside of the district houses are springing up with magical rapidity.

We have plenty of capable and substantial builders of a speculative turn of mind in the town who are not wanting in enterprise, and who would, I feel sure, be pleased to extend their building operations if there was a fair prospect of reasonable remuneration.

There is still a great demand for houses in the town and rents are good, so that the seeming want of enterprise on the part of the Houghton builders is difficult to understand, but that they have some good and sufficient reason for their action cannot be doubted.

Offensive Trades.—The Council are about to be empowered to declare the trade of fish-frying to be offensive and to regulate the same.

Puerperal Fever and Maternity Nurses.—We have no certified midwives acting as maternity nurses in the district.

All cases of puerperal fever are notified under the Infectious Disease Notification Act, and proper instructions to nurses and others brought into contact with such cases are given by your Medical Officer.

In addition to his remarks on the Sanitary Circumstances and Administration of Houghton-le-Spring Urban District, in his report of October last, Dr. Smedley makes certain suggestions and recommendations which your Council have under serious consideration.

With regard to overcrowding, he recommends the erection of houses under the Housing Acts. There is undoubtedly overcrowding in some parts of the district; this, however, is largely due to the tendency of some occupiers to take in lodgers and married relatives and their wives and families, who are looking for work or who are working outside the district and have been unable to obtain houses of their own nearer their work.

This practice should not be encouraged by the owners, for, as a rule, the houses afford no more accommodation than is sufficient for the occupiers themselves.

He also recommends the water-carriage system for all new houses, and in congested areas where the yard space is small, and in places where the night-soil has to be wheeled through narrow passages and deposited on the street before it can be carted away by the contractor. The taking over and maintaining all roads in the district made to your satisfaction, and the doing up of unmade back streets. This, of course, is of great importance as a precaution against surface pollution. He further recommends your Council to consider the advisability of adopting the Notification of Births Act and the appointment of a Health Visitor.

Such matters have been under your consideration before, gentlemen, and although we have done much on the lines suggested by Dr. Smedley, still more requires to be done.

For the past few months batches of houses, examined under the Housing and Town Planning Act by your Inspector and myself, and found to be more or less insanitary, have been inspected by your Council, and the requisite notices have been served on the owners, with, upon the whole, good results, as many of the houses have already been put into a sanitary condition.

By continuing this practice we shall in due time be able to remedy many of the defects referred to in Dr. Smedley's report, as in a large majority of cases they are of such a nature that willing and enterprising owners should have no difficulty in putting their houses into a proper state of repair in accordance with the requirements of your Council.

Factories and Workshops.—These have been inspected by your Sanitary Inspector and myself in the usual way.

Sanitary Accommodation.—One of the conveniences is unsuitable on account of its situation. As the owner has other conveniences within reasonable distance, they should be used and the one above referred to done away with. The owner has agreed to carry out my recommendation.

In another case there is want of proper accommodation for the sexes. The owner promised from time to time to provide the necessary accommodation when he altered his premises, but so far nothing has been done. The plans for the new workshop, however, which show proper sanitary conveniences, have been passed by the Urban District Council, so that presumably the work will be started with at once. Meanwhile temporary conveniences are in use.

In one of the factories a flywheel has been fenced off in order to guard against accidents, and a circular saw has also been protected by a driving knife.

In other respects I found nothing to complain of; the air space, ventilation and drainage were in accordance with the Act.

Persons examined for certificates of fitness for employment in factories and workshops:—

13 and under 14 years	14 and under 16	M.	F.	Total	Rejected
1 Male	42	20	22	42	None

Statement of Certifying Surgeon of duties performed under Section 8 of the Workmen's Compensation Act during the year:—

Nystagmus	17
Beat Hand	9
Miner's Beat Elbow	1
Inflammation of Synovial Lining of Wrist and Tendon Sheaths	11
Miner's Beat Knee	2
Inhalation of Fumes given off by Nitrous Explosive while at Work	1
Eczematous Ulceration of the Skin from Handling Lead Paint while at Work	1
Total	42

Industry in which employed: Mining and painting.

Wood Houses, Colliery Row.—The alterations and improvements suggested by the Colliery Company, and approved by your Council and the County Medical Officer of Health, and fully

reported on in my last year's report, are almost finished. The remainder will be taken in hand at the earliest opportunity.

The houses have a neat and comfortable appearance inside and the tenants are well satisfied with the improvements that have been made.

Water Analysis.—Two samples of water, one taken from the rising main before entering the reservoir, the other from the fenced-in spring in the field at White House Farm, were bacteriologically examined by Professor Hutchens, University of Durham College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on December 27th, 1911, and reported to be satisfactory and quite fit for the purposes of domestic use.

The following is a copy of Professor Hutchens' report:—

REPORT UPON THE BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF TWO
SAMPLES OF WATER RECEIVED FROM DR. PARK ON
BEHALF OF THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF HOUGHTON-
LE-SPRING ON DECEMBER 14TH, 1911.

Sample No. 1.—Bacillus Coli test: Negative in 100 c.c. or less. B. Enteritidis Sporogenes test: Negative in 25 c.c. Streptococci not found in 10 c.c. Sample taken from rising main before entering Reservoir.

Sample No. 2.—Bacillus Coli test: Positive in 100 c.c., but negative in 10 c.c. and less. B. Enteritidis Sporogenes test: Negative in 25 c.c. Streptococci not found in 25 c.c. A complete or differentiate count was not possible in either case on account of the development of large "liquefying" colonies. Sample taken from spring at White House Farm.

These two samples were, I understand, taken from taps in the area of distribution, the source being deep wells in the yellow sands underlying the magnesium limestone.

From the bacteriological examination it would appear that the water is quite satisfactory from the point of view of the tests which are adopted as indicators of "Sewage Pollution."

(Signed) H. HUTCHENS.

December 27th, 1911.

University of Durham College of
Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Our water supply has been quite ample for all our requirements. We have, of course, had occasion from time to time to draw from the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, during a temporary falling off of the feeders at the Houghton Colliery, but the town has always been well supplied with water, and there has been no occasion to turn it off at any time of the

day or night, as was formerly frequently the case, unless as the result of some damage to the mains or from furring up of some of the pipes with black oxide of manganese, which is a feature of our water, when the water had to be turned off to allow of the necessary repairs, even on these rare occasions the town has never been inconvenienced.

The following particulars with respect to the Housing, Town Planning, Etc., Act, 1909 (in force since 3rd December, 1909), may prove of interest:—

Condition as to Keeping Houses Let to Persons of the Working Classes in Repair.—Under Section 14 of this Act it is enacted that in any contract made after the passing of this Act for letting for habitation a house or part of a house at a rent not exceeding £16 there shall be implied a condition that the house is at the commencement of the holding in all respects reasonably fit for habitation.

Section 15.—If this contract is not observed by the landlord notice may be served on the landlord requiring him within not less than 21 days to execute such works as may be necessary to make the house in all respects fit for habitation.

Section 17.—(1) Requires Local Authority to make periodical inspections of the houses in their districts.

(2) On the representation from the Medical Officer of Health or other authorised officer that a house is unfit for habitation the Local Authority must, if satisfied, make a closing order.*

(3) Notice of such order to be forthwith served on the owner who has a right of appeal to the Local Government Board within fourteen days.

(6) The Local Authority shall determine closing order when satisfied that dwelling has been rendered fit for habitation. If the Local Authority refuses application owner may appeal to the Local Government Board within fourteen days.

Section 18.—(1) Where a closing order has been operative for three months, the Local Authority shall consider question of demolition but must give owner not less than a month's notice that he may be heard on the subject.

* In accordance with the Memorandum of the L.G. Board to U.D.C.'s on the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, dated 31st Dec., 1909 (see page 6, 7th par.), informal notice of intention of L.A. to make closing orders with respect to any property should be served upon all persons interested in the property, so that they may be given an opportunity of thoroughly considering the position of affairs. Thus the owner may decide (1) to submit proposals to the L.A. or their officers for the remedying of the defects rendering the property uninhabitable, in which case the closing orders would not be proceeded with, or (2) to appear before the L.A. to protest against the making of closing orders.

(2) If the Local Authority are of opinion that dwelling has not been rendered fit and that steps are not being diligently made to make it so and if dwelling is a nuisance or dangerous or injurious to health, the Local Authority shall order its demolition.

(3) If owner undertakes forthwith to render dwelling fit and the Local Authority considers it can be made so fit, they may postpone demolition order for not more than six months.

(4) Notice of demolition order to be served on owner who has a right of appeal within twenty-one days to the Local Government Board.

Houses Let in Lodgings.—As there seems to be a growing tendency on the part of some owners to convert their property into such houses the following particulars may prove alike interesting and instructive.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 (paragraph 23—(4)), which applies both to Urban and Rural Authorities, is as follows:—“Every Local Authority may make bye-laws to prevent buildings which have been erected in accordance with bye-laws made under the Public Health Acts from being altered in such a way that if at first so constructed they would have contravened the bye-laws.” Then again under the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907, even greater powers are given. Section 22 is as follows:—“For the purpose of this Act and the Public Health Acts and any bye-laws made thereunder each of the following operations, namely:— (b) The conversion into a dwelling house of any building not originally constructed for human habitation or the conversion into more than one dwelling house of a building originally constructed as one dwelling house only. shall be deemed to be the erection of a new building.”

These Acts have been adopted by your Council, and, of course, if a building is a new building plans must be submitted to and approved by your Council. Moreover, under Section 90 of the Public Health Act, 1875, the Local Government Board have empowered your Council to make bye-laws regulating houses let in lodgings, that is to say: “(1) For fixing and from time to time varying the number of persons who may occupy a house or part of a house which is let in lodgings or occupied by persons of more than one family and for the separation of the sexes in a house so let or occupied,” etc., etc.

New Houses.—Plans have been passed for ten dwelling houses, and alterations and improvements have been made to two shops in Newbottle Street and to a tool house near the Reservoir.

The disinfection of elementary schools has been undertaken by your Council at the expense of the County Council.

Suggested County Hospital for Pulmonary Tuberculosis.—A conference was held at Durham a year ago, but no definite decision was come to and the meeting was adjourned *sine die*.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.—Your Council have adopted Parts 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the above Act.

I must thank your able Surveyor for the following particulars with respect to the consumption of water during the year and the Fire Extinguishing Appliances.

Water Supply.—The total consumption of water for all purposes during the past year has been 62,428,000 gallons, of which the Houghton Colliery supplied 54,593,000 gallons and the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company 7,835,000 gallons, being a total daily average of 171,000 gallons.

The consumption as registered by meter for trade purposes totals 4,915,000 gallons or a daily average of 13,000 gallons.

Street purposes including steam rolling and sewer flushing has consumed 250,000 gallons or a daily average of 684 gallons.

The total consumption for domestic purposes, new buildings, trades supplied other than by meter, school and other buildings having automatic flushing tanks, 20 in all, 29 public houses, 10 cow byres, 11 butchers, about 100 horse keepers and 18 farms, together with the waste caused by burst water mains, etc., has been 57,263,000 gallons, or a daily average of 156,000 gallons, or 15·9 gallons per head of population taken at 9,753, being the unrevised figures of last census, not including two portions of the Rural District supplied on a basis of assessment and representing nearly 200 persons.

Fire Extinguishing Appliances.—The Council during the past year purchased from the Sunderland Corporation a one-horse currie hose-cart and 45 feet fire escape, having a canvas chute attachment and is sufficient to reach the top storey of any premises within the district.

The Fire Shed has been altered to receive the escape, which is expected to be delivered in the early part of the year and the Surveyor has designed a small first aid, hand drawn, hose cart, with ladders and facilities for the carrying of hose, tools, etc.

Should the Council approve of and acquire the cart suggested by the Surveyor, it is his suggestion that the present leather hose and reel, etc., be installed at Colliery Row, thereby allowing the possibility of dealing, without delay, with an outbreak of fire in that part of the district, instead of waiting until the call has reached Houghton-le-Spring and the apparatus has travelled to the scene of outbreak.

The Death-rate.—As shewn by the census returns, gentlemen, it will be seen that our population has been over-estimated.

Considering the continued prosperity of the staple industry of the district, and the great demand for houses, I am a little surprised as I was under the impression that our population would prove to be really under-estimated.

However, our calculations are now based upon the actual population as ascertained by the census returns at the middle of the year. Although some of our rates are a little above the average for the county some are lower, and but for our excessive death-rate and infant mortality for the month of August (due entirely to the abnormal summer) when they were respectively 32·1 and 70·3 per cent. as compared with 15·7 and 30·7 for the corresponding month of last year, our rates would have been much smaller. By a perusal of the table giving the Chief Vital Statistics for the Administrative County of Durham—for a copy of which I am indebted to Dr. Hill, County Medical Officer of Health, and I take this opportunity of offering him my thanks—it will be observed that although our death-rate is higher, our infant mortality is lower, and our birth-rate is above that for the county.

As I have previously remarked, gentlemen, you will find much in my report with which you are already familiar: this is unavoidable, as matters which have been brought before you at your monthly meetings are only brought before the Local Government Board and the County Council for the first time in my Annual Report, and as your Medical Officer it is my duty to keep the Local Government Board and County Council acquainted with all matters of importance brought before your Council during the year.

I beg in conclusion, gentlemen, to acknowledge the ready and willing consideration you invariably give to my suggestions and recommendations. The pleasant relations that have existed between us all these years are a source of great comfort to me in the discharge of my important and responsible duties, and I beg to tender you my grateful thanks.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D. S. PARK.

Houghton-le-Spring.

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1911 and previous Years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un-corrected Number.	Nett.		Number.	Rate.	of Non-residents registered in the District.	of Residents registered in the District.	Under 1 Year of Age.		At all Ages.	
			Number.	Rate.					Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.		
												Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1906	8,950	Births simply given without reference to district.	318	35.5	189	21.17	10	4	55	172.9	183	20.44
1907	9,425		346	36.7	163	17.29	15	6	51	147.3	154	16.33
1908	9,725		366	37.6	190	19.53	3	4	70	191.2	191	19.6
1909	9,800		383	39.08	132	13.4	9	4	38	99.2	127	12.9
1910	10,250		299	29.1	194	18.9	14	3	48	160.5	183	17.8
1911	9,753		328	33.6	177	18.1	11	10	49	149.3	176	18.03

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), 1,551.

Total population at all ages 9,753
Number of inhabited houses 1,991
Families or separate occupiers 1,980
Average number of persons per house 4.8

at Census of 1911.

Institution within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District: Union Workhouse.
Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District: Sunderland Infirmary, Durham Co. Lunatic Asylum.

TABLE II.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1911.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases notified.										Total Cases notified in each Locality.		Total Cases removed to Hospital.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								Houghton.	Work-house.		
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and Upwards.					
Small-pox	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cholera	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria (including Membranous Croup)	7	2	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	1
Erysipelas	9	1	...	1	2	2	...	...	...	7	2	...
Scarlet Fever	21	9	11	...	1	...	...	...	...	21	...	5
Typhus Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	14	...	6	3	2	3	...	...	...	13	1	6
Relapsing Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Continued Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Phthisis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1908	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Under Tuberculosis Regulations, 1911	3	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Others	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chicken Pox	13	4	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	...	...
Totals	67	4	14	29	6	6	5	3	64	3	17		

Isolation Hospital: Houghton Urban Isolation Hospital.

Total available Beds, 11. Number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated, 4.

TABLE III. Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1911.

Causes of Death.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District.									Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
All causes { Certified ...	175	49	16	13	11	4	24	25	33	...
{ Uncertified	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Enteric Fever	4	...	...	...	2	...	1	1	...	1
Small Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	4	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1
Scarlet Fever	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Diphtheria and Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Influenza	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Erysipelas ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	10	...	...	...	2	1	7	...	...	...
Tuberculous Meningitis	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Tuberculous Diseases	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rheumatic Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Cancer, malignant disease	10	...	...	...	...	1	1	3	5	2
Bronchitis	8	1	1	...	...	...	1	3	2	2
Broncho-Pneumonia	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia (all other forms)	14	3	3	3	1	1	2	...	1	...
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	20	10	6	1	1	...	...	...	2	...
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Alcoholism ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cirrhosis of Liver	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1
Puerperal Fever ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	25	23	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	6	...	...	1	1	...	2	2	...	...
Suicides ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Heart Disease	21	...	...	...	1	1	3	6	10	8
Other Defined Diseases	37	7	2	4	...	...	3	7	14	8
Diseases ill-defined or unknown	5	2	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
	176	49	16	13	11	4	24	25	34	23

TABLE V.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF DURHAM.

CHIEF VITAL STATISTICS for 1911, and their comparison with
1910 and the average of the ten years, 1901—1910.

Estimated Population (1911)	...	...	933,780
„ „ (1910)	...	...	916,150

	Annual Rates per 1,000 Population.		Mean Rate for 10 Years 1901-1910.
	1911	1910	
Birth-rate	31·7	32·5	34·5
Death-rate	16·1	14·3	16·7
Zymotic Death-rate	3·01	1·53	2·13
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births) ...	158	126	149
Small-pox	Nil	Nil	0·007
Scarlet Fever	0·07	0·07	0·13
Diphtheria and Membranous Croup ...	0·16	0·16	0·21
Fever (Enteric and Continued)	0·16	0·09	0·15
Measles	0·44	0·19	0·38
Whooping Cough	0·38	0·24	0·34
Diarrhoea	1·77	0·76	0·89
Phthisis	0·88	0·83	0·98
Other tubercular diseases	0·61	0·61	0·77
Acute respiratory diseases	2·39	2·29	2·73

9th January, 1912.

T. EUSTACE HILL,
County Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE VI.

Summary of Work done in the Inspector of Nuisance's Department during the year 1911, in the Urban District of Houghton-le-Spring.

I. Public Health Acts.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Number of Formal Notices by order of Authority.	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
Dwelling-houses & Schools—				
Foul Conditions ...	6	1	7	
Structural Defects ...	21	10	24	
Overcrowding ...	...	...	4	
Lodging-houses ...	...	...	...
Dairies and Milkshops ...	...	...	...
Cowsheds ...	...	...	...
Bakehouses ...	...	...	...
Slaughter-houses ...	...	...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	294	13	301	
Deposits of Refuse & Manure	6	...	6	
Waterclosets ...	43	29	65	Includes 24 Notices to provide W.C.'s. and Bins where Refuse wheeled through rooms
Defective Yard Paving ...	...	1	1	
House drainage—				
Defective Traps ...	...	...	...
No Disconnection from Sewers ...	...	...	...
Other Faults ...	81	2	83	
Water Supply ...	18	1	19	
Pigsties ...	2	...	1	
Animals Improperly Kept	1	...	1	
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...	...	...
Other Nuisances ...	100	...	100	Notices to show people living in vans at the "Feast" in the "Lake" and Market Place.
TOTALS ...	576	57	612	

II. Water, Food, and Drugs.

	Number.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis —	—
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	—
Seizures of Unwholesome Food ...	—
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome Food ...	—
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis ...	—
Samples of Food found Adulterated —	—

III. Precautions against Infectious Disease.

	Number.
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed ...	10
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	14
Schools disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	—
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	—
Convictions for exposure of infected persons or things ...	...

IV. General.

Number of New Houses erected during the year ...	9	Ash-closets converted into Water-closets ...	—
Number of such Houses occupied during the year ...	3	Total number of Water-closets in District ...	314
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets ...	21	Total number of Ash-closets in District ...	337
Ashpit-privies converted into Water-closets ...	23	Total number of Ashpit-privies in District ...	1,164

JOHN W. HOLBROOK, Inspector of Nuisances, to March 31st, 1911.
JOS. W. TWEDDLE, Inspector of Nuisances.

